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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented): A method of operating a financial document processing system, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) monitoring a number of operating parameters associated with operation of the system;
 - (b) storing a number of operating parameters of step (a) into a database;
 - (c) retrieving a fault finding test script file which contains a number of tests which can be performed on the system;
 - (d) performing tests contained in the retrieved fault finding test script file of step (c) using at least some of the parameters stored in the database to provide a number of signals indicative of a potential fault condition; and
 - (e) updating the retrieved fault finding test script file of step (c) based upon test results from tests which have been performed on the system in step (d).
2. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - (f) displaying a message to assist an operator in diagnosing the potential fault condition before the potential fault condition actually occurs.
3. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - (f) periodically determining if the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match a predetermined fault pattern.
4. (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of:
 - (g) alerting an operator when the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match the predetermined fault pattern.

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5. (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of:

(g) logging a fault event when the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match the predetermined fault pattern.

6. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

(f) displaying a number of actions on a screen to assist the operator in diagnosing the potential fault condition.

7. (previously presented): A method according to claim 6, wherein step (d) includes the step of:

(f-1) displaying specific instructions to provide a step-by-step approach to diagnosing the potential fault condition.

8. (previously presented): A financial document processing system comprising: means for monitoring a number of operating parameters associated with operation of the system;

means for storing a number of operating parameters into a database;

means for retrieving a fault finding test script file which contains a number of tests which can be performed on the system;

means for performing tests contained in the retrieved fault finding test script file using at least some of the parameters stored in the database to provide a number of signals indicative of a potential fault condition; and

means for updating the retrieved fault finding test script file based upon test results from tests which have been performed on the system.

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9. (original): A financial document processing system according to claim 8, further comprising means for displaying a message to assist an operator in diagnosing the potential fault condition before the potential fault condition actually occurs.

10. (original): A financial document processing system according to claim 8, further comprising means for periodically determining if the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match a predetermined fault pattern.

11. (original): A financial document processing system according to claim 10, further comprising means for alerting an operator when the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match the predetermined fault pattern.

12. (original): A financial document processing system according to claim 10, further comprising means for logging a fault event when the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match the predetermined fault pattern.

13. (original): A financial document processing system according to claim 8, further comprising means for displaying a number of actions on a screen to assist the operator in diagnosing the potential fault condition.

14. (original): A financial document processing system according to claim 13, wherein the displaying means includes means for displaying specific instructions to provide a step-by-step approach to diagnosing the potential fault condition.

15. (previously presented): A program storage medium readable by a computer having a memory, the medium tangibly embodying one or more programs of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for operating a financial document processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

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- (a) monitoring a number of operating parameters associated with operation of the system;
- (b) storing a number of operating parameters of step (a) into a database;
- (c) retrieving a fault finding test script file which contains a number of tests which can be performed on the system;
- (d) performing tests contained in the retrieved fault finding test script file of step (c) using at least some of the parameters stored in the database to provide a number of signals indicative of a potential fault condition; and
- (e) updating the retrieved fault finding test script file of step (c) based upon test results from tests which have been performed on the system in step (d).

16. (previously presented): A program storage medium according to claim 15, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

- (f) displaying a message to assist an operator in diagnosing the potential fault condition before the potential fault condition actually occurs.

17. (previously presented): A program storage medium according to claim 15, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

- (f) periodically determining if the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match a predetermined fault pattern.

18. (previously presented): A program storage medium according to claim 17, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

- (g) alerting an operator when the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match the predetermined fault pattern.

19. (previously presented): A program storage medium according to claim 17, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

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(g) logging a fault event when the signals indicative of the potential fault condition match the predetermined fault pattern.

20. (previously presented): A program storage medium according to claim 15, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

(f) displaying a number of actions on a screen to assist the operator in diagnosing the potential fault condition.

21. (previously presented): A program storage medium according to claim 20, wherein the method further comprises the step of:

(f-1) displaying specific instructions to provide a step-by-step approach to diagnosing the potential fault condition.